(b) the number of projects approved till-date;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government in this respect; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to State/UT Governments including North-Eastern region and Sikkim for conservation and protection of wildlife in the national parks and sanctuaries under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.-"Assistance for Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries", "Project Tiger"* and *"Project Elephant"*. The proposals are received from State/UT Governments annually in the form of 'Annual Plan of Operations' (APOs) for financial assistance and are examined in the Ministry. During the previous financial year (2007-08) 64 APOs from North-Eastern Region including Sikkim were approved under these schemes. Details of financial assistance provided to North-Eastern States during 2007-08 under these schemes are as below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Dev. of NPs/WLS	Project Elephant	Project Tiger
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	125.05	54.50	110.25
2.	Assam	81.775	144.00	95.61
3.	Manipur	105.89	-	-
4.	Meghalaya	64.88	68.39	-
5.	Mizoram	169.46	1.33	82.90
6.	Nagaland	19.11	26.60	-
7.	Sikkim	159.22	-	-
8.	Tripura	36.00	12.00	-
	TOTAL:	761.385	306.82	288.76

Pollution free townships

3269. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to set up pollution free townships like the Masdar township established in 7 Km. desert adjoining Abu Dhabi in United Arab Emirates; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Steps are informed to have been undertaken for setting up a Masdar township at a huge investment adjoining Abu Dhabi in United Arab Emirates based on power generated from solar energy. The Government of India at present has no scheme for setting up of a township like the Masdar township.

To abate and control air and water pollution in cities, various steps have been initiated including the following:

* Emission and effluent standards have been notified for various categories of industries under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986.
* The Air quality is monitored at 339 locations in 126 cities/towns across 25 States and 4 UTs in the country.
* Action plans for improvement of Air quality have been prepared and implemented for 16 cities.
* Cleaner fuels have been introduced for control of vehicular pollution as per Auto Fuel Policy.
* Source Apportionment Studies for suspended particulate matter (SPM) and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) have been initiated for ascertaining contribution from various sources in six cities, namely, Delhi, Kanpur, Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore and Chennai through various institutions.
* For controlling water pollution emanating from Small Scale Industries units, a Centrally sponsored scheme for establishment of Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) is under implementation.

Pollution in Similipal Forest Biosphere in Mayurbhanj

3270. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that in the core area of Similipal Forest Biosphere in Mayurbhanj district of Orissa State where national tiger project exists/locates, a numerous stone cutting crushers and iron extraction machines have been set up;

(b) if so, whether these machines have not only been creating environmental pollution but also distructing all living human, animals and plants;

(c) if so, whether they have been permitted by Government for such dangerous activities; and

(d) if not, the steps Government has taken/would take against these culprits/companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Similipal Tiger Reserve is located within the Similipal Biosphere Reserve. As reported by the State, no stone cutting crusher or iron extraction machine have been set up within the core area of the Biosphere Reserve.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

Impact of global warming on the economy

3271. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of impact of Global Warming on the economy;

(b) the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the developed countries are contributing to a much larger extent to this global warming;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government in this regard?